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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
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HEADLINES

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Rice: Turkey is of Critical Importance for the US - Sabah
Rice: Turkey among Countries with which US Has Strategic
Ties - Vatan
Ambassador Wilson Chooses Turkey, an `Interesting,
Difficult' Post - Milliyet
Barzani: Kirkuk Will be Annexed to Kurdistan in 2007 -
Milliyet
Israeli Troops Train Northern Iraqi Peshmerge - Aksam
NYT: CIA Planes Landed in Turkey Twice - Sabah
55 Percent of Americans Believe Bush Has No Policy for
`Victory in Iraq' - Sabah
Peres: Sharon Will Bring Peace - Sabah
Sharon: For Iran, All Options are on the Table - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS

Ambassador Wilson Sworn in After Approval by US Senate -
Zaman
Rice: Turkey, US Have Strategic Ties - Yeni Safak
Mottaki: Tehran, Ankara, Baghdad Can Prevent Iraq's
Partition - Zaman
US Urges All Countries to Pressure, Sanction Iran - Radikal
Northern Iraq Becomes a Base for MOSSAD - Yeni Safak
EU Agrees on Strategy to Combat Terror - Radikal
Sharon: We Won't Give Up West Bank for Peace - Radikal
Livni: Security Fence Will be the Border Between Israel,

Palestine - Cumhuriyet
Al-Qaida Recruits 'White' Militants for Attacks in Europe -
Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

Ambassador Wilson Sworn In: The new US Ambassador to Ankara, Ross Wilson, was sworn in during a ceremony at the State Department after being approved by the US Senate earlier this week, Turkish papers report. Secretary Rice said during the swearing-in that Turkey was among the few countries with which the US had a 'strategic relationship.' 'That's why we send to Turkey our most experienced diplomats,' Rice said, and stressed the importance of ties with Turkey. Wilson said in response to a question that he chose Turkey and believes it will be an 'interesting and tough post.' Papers report that Ambassador Wilson will arrive in Ankara on Saturday.

Mottaki Visits Ankara: Visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said on Thursday that Iran, Turkey and the central government in Iraq should cooperate to prevent the partition of Iraq, papers report. Mottaki said there was a small chance that an independent Kurdish state would be established in Iraq. During a call on Parliament Speaker Bulent Arinc Mottaki discussed the expansion of Tehran-Ankara ties. Arinc described as positive Mottaki's visit to Turkey, and invited the speaker of the Iranian parliament to Turkey in early 2006. The Iranian FM was also received by PM Erdogan, and met with the main opposition CHP leader Deniz Baykal, and former PMs Bulent Ecevit and Necmetin Erbakan. During the Mottaki-Erbakan meeting, women

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correspondents were kept outside of Erbakan's house where Turkey's banned Islamist leader hosted the Iranian FM. CHP leader Baykal and Mottaki discussed the situation in Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. Baykal reportedly told Mottaki that all countries in the world should abide by international law, particularly UN resolutions. Mottaki told Baykal about Iran's dialogue with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), adding that Tehran expected an experts' meeting would be held soon on the issue. "Radikal" comments that Turkey, parallel to its ties with Russia, will create mutual dependency in ties with Iran. Iran has been given the message that Turkey and Iran ought to respect each other's different regimes. The two countries share common regional interests and they need each other, the paper says.

Barzani: Kirkuk Will be Annexed to Kurdistan in 2007: The president of the regional administration of Kurdistan, Massoud Barzani has infuriated Ankara by saying that in 2007, the Kurdish administration of northern Iraq would acquire the control of Kirkuk, papers report. Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul reacted strongly to the KDP leader's statement, saying that Barzani was not entitled to make decisions with regard to Kirkuk. "Cumhuriyet" says in a news-commentary that the president of the regional administration of Kurdistan, Massoud Barzani, is seen as source of encouragement for Kurds in Turkey as well as in Syria and Iran. Receptions at the highest levels given by Western statesmen to Barzani are seen as serious developments regarding the establishment of a Kurdish state in Iraq. The wide interest seen in Turkey in Barzani is due to social, political and economic factors, and at the same time, was influenced by the moves of legal and illegal organizations in the region. People in southeast Turkey are scared by the violent actions of the PKK, and are pleased to see that the reputation of the Kurdish phenomenon is improving, thanks to the maneuvers of Barzani, says "Cumhuriyet."

CIA Planes Land in Turkey Twice: CIA planes have landed at Turkish airports not once but twice, the Transportation Minister Binali Yildirim revealed on Friday. Yildirim

confirmed that CIA planes had landed twice at Sabiha Gokcen Airport in Istanbul. On Saturday last week, Yildirim had admitted that a CIA plane had landed on November 15 at Sabiha Gokcen 'due to technical reasons.' The plane had remained on the ground in Istanbul for 27 hours. The plane had arrived at the Istanbul airport from Baku on November 15, left for Amsterdam's Schipol Airport on November 16, and later traveled on to Iceland. Suspicions are now growing in Turkey that Incirlik Air base in southern Turkey could have been used by US forces for illegal transportation of terror suspects, dailies comment.

Patriarch Bartholomew I on Halki Seminary, Mosque in Athens: Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, the spiritual head of 300 million Orthodox Christians around the world, said in an interview with "Milliyet" that he wanted Turkey to reopen Halki Seminary in Istanbul. Bartolomew I also urged Greece to allow a mosque to open in Athens.

Private Israeli Military Firms Train the Kurds in Northern Iraq: Private Israeli military firms have been training Kurdish peshmerge forces in northern Iraq, Turkish papers citing the leading Israeli daily "Yedioth Ahronot" report on Thursday.

The Israeli daily claimed that dozens of Israelis specialized in elite military combat training were employed by private Israeli companies in northern Iraq to train Kurds in the establishment of elite anti-terror units. Last year,

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Turkey issued a strong warning to the Israeli authorities on the subject. Israel later denied the reports. "Yedioth Ahronot" named Motorola Israel and Magalcom Communications and Computers as two companies contracting with the local the Kurdish government to train Kurdish security forces and provide them with advanced equipment. The paper said that tons of Israeli made equipment, including motorcycles, tractors, sniffer dogs, systems to upgrade Kalashnikov rifles, and bulletproof vests, have been shipped to a secret training camp in Iraq's northern region. The Israeli instructors entered Iraq through Turkey using their Israeli passports, undercover as agriculture experts and infrastructure engineers, the Israeli daily added.

YAS Expels Four Turkish Officers from Military: Turkey's Supreme Military Council (YAS) expelled four officers from the military for 'reactionary activities and lack of discipline' -- a reference to Islamist tendencies seen by the Turkish General Staff (TGS) as a threat to Turkey's secular regime, papers report. Prime Minister Erdogan, who chaired the YAS meeting, and Defense Minister Vecdi Gonul, expressed 'reservations' to show that they do not necessarily endorse the decision.

Erdogan Due in Australia, New Zealand: Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, accompanied by a large delegation of Turkish businessmen, kicks off his December 2-11 visit to Australia and New Zealand on Friday. Erdogan will be the first Turkish prime minister to pay a visit to Oceania countries.

Turkey Wants National Afghan Army, Police Force Established: Turkey's Permanent Representative to UN Baki Ilkin said on Thursday Turkey believes that it was essential in assuring the long-term security and unity of Afghanistan to form a national Afghan army and police force, the semi-official "Anatolian News Agency" (AA) reported Thursday. Ilkin reminded the UN General Assembly in a debate on Afghanistan that Turkey assumed the command of ISAF for 14 months, and that it was determined to assist Afghanistan to achieve permanent peace and stability. A draft resolution submitted to the UN calls on the international community to support war-ravaged Afghanistan to complete its political transition within the framework of the Bonn Process. The draft also wants the international community to encourage the Afghan government to prepare a temporary national development strategy. The strategy will be debated at a London

conference in January.

AKP Wants to Open 15 New Universities in Turkey: A motion by the ruling AK Party on the establishment of 15 new universities in 15 provinces across Turkey was discussed and accepted at the parliamentary education commission on Thursday, papers report. Rebuffing the AKP's motion on new universities, the Higher Education Board (YOK) decided on Wednesday that only four cities out of a list of 15 meet the criteria for hosting a new university. New universities are to be established in the provinces of Kirsehir, Kastamonu, Duzce, Burdur, Usak, Rize, Tekirdag, Erzincan, Aksaray, Giresun, Corum, Yozgat, Adiyaman, Ordu and Amasya, according to the bill. 2,000 new academic staff and 15 rectors will be needed at the new universities. Only 250,000 out of 1.7 million of students have a chance to enter Turkish universities through an exam held every year. There are 53 state and 24 private universities in Turkey.

EDITORIAL OPINION: US-Turkey; GWOT; Iraq

"The Growing Importance of Turkey"

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Hasan Mesut Hazar commented in the conservative "Turkiye" (12/2): "During Ambassador Ross Wilson's swearing-in ceremony, Secretary Rice made a strong statement about the strategic importance of Turkish-American ties. She referred to Turkey as one of the most important countries for the US. Her remarks serve as a rebuttal to conspiracy theorists who continuously claim that the strategic partnership between Turkey and the US has died. The new American Ambassador to Turkey is a senior diplomat who put a great deal of effort into the realization of the Baku-Ceyhan pipeline project. US support for the project -- especially when oil companies characterized it as nothing but a dream -- has now been justified. It is equally important for Turkey that the US is sending an experienced diplomat like Ross Wilson to Ankara."

"Who Cares?"

Haluk Ulman commented in the economic-politic "Dunya" (12/2): "In the absence of a counter-power, it seems the Bush administration has been acting as if there are no binding rules. The global war against terrorism has become a pretext for the violation of international law. According to global opinion, torture is a crime against humanity. There are numerous international conventions to prevent it, but that does not seem to bother the Bush administration. Torture camps in East European countries are clear examples of this behavior. And let's not forget the other ones in Guantanamo, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The US seems to be engaging in piracy as well, abducting terror suspects from the Middle East and holding them in torture camps. The use of white phosphorus against Iraqi civilians also proves that the Bush administration not only ignores international rules on torture, but also violates every international convention regarding the laws of war."

"Barzani Is Comfortable About Kirkuk"

Fikret Bila wrote in the mainstream "Milliyet" (12/2): "Developments in Iraq also impact regional relations. Iran is under threat from the US due to its nuclear program, as is Syria due to the Hariri assassination. Turkey, on the other hand, is working with both the US and KDP leader Barzani to uproot the PKK in the Kandil mountains. Iran, as it moves closer to Turkey while the US threat grows, has offered to cooperate with Turkey in the struggle against the PKK in Iranian territory. The Iranian Foreign Minister said to Turkish authorities in Ankara that Iran will not allow the establishment of an independent Kurdistan in northern Iraq. He signaled that both Iran and Syria will stand with Turkey against such a development. Content with this approach, Ankara still warned Iran about its nuclear program. Meanwhile, it seems that KDP leader Barzani has

focused on Kirkuk and its status. In a recent speech, he said that Kirkuk will belong to the Kurdish region in 2007, citing article 136 in Iraq's new constitution. The status of Kirkuk used to be an alarming issue for Ankara. Turkey still wants to see Kirkuk remain as part of Iraq. But such efforts seem doomed, because Barzani appears to have gotten a promise on Kirkuk from the US."

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